

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: January 22, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 7:20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Dane Mahern, Chairman
Rozelle Boyd
Ron Gibson
Scott Keller
Becky Langsford
Angela Mansfield
Jackie Nytes
Marilyn Pfisterer
Mike Speedy

Absent Members

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 31, 2007 - reappoints Amy Kotzbauer to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board I
"Postpone" until February 2, 2007

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 32, 2007 - reappoints Maryann Seyfried to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board I
"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

Update from Indianapolis Housing Agency – Bud Myers, Executive Director

PROPOSAL NO. 638, 2006 - establishes a Division of Regional Transportation Authority in the Department of Metropolitan Development
"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 1, 2007 - appropriates \$592,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Metropolitan Development (Redevelopment General Fund) to fund infrastructure improvements along West 16th Street between Alonzo Watford Drive and Stadium Drive, financed by revenues collected in the area known as the Biocrossroads Certified Technology Park
"Do Pass"

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 2, 2007 - appropriates \$2,753,500 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Metropolitan Development (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants and Transportation General Funds) to fund the Household Survey, Land Use Study, Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Travel Demand Model, financed by federal grants and revenues contributed by partner municipalities that participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization

“Do Pass”

Vote: 9-0

PROPOSAL NO. 3, 2007 - appropriates \$1,119,260 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Metropolitan Development (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants and Transportation General Funds) to allow for additional local transportation planning studies for the region and additional transportation studies for Marion County, financed by federal grants and revenues contributed by partner municipalities that participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization

“Do Pass”

Vote: 9-0

Presentation from David Pilbrow, Indiana Friends Committee On Legislation

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, January 22, 2007. Chair Dane Mahern called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Rozelle Boyd, Ron Gibson, Scott Keller, Angela Mansfield, Jackie Nytes, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Mike Speedy. Councillor Becky Langsford arrived shortly thereafter.

PROPOSAL NO. 31, 2007 - reappoints Amy Kotzbauer to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board I

Chair Mahern stated that Ms. Kotzbauer had a previous scheduled meeting and is unable to be in attendance.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Nytes, to “Postpone” Proposal No. 31, 2007 until February 5, 2007. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 32, 2007 - reappoints Maryann Seyfried to the Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals, Board I

Ms. Seyfried said if approved this will be her second appointment to the board. She said she enjoys serving on the board. She retired from the Department of Insurance and therefore uses her experience on the board.

Councillors Speedy and Boyd expressed their support of Ms. Seyfried’s reappointment.

Councillor Boyd moved, seconded by Councillor Speedy, to send Proposal No. 32, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

[Clerk’s note: Councillor Langsford arrived at 5:34 p.m.]

Update from Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA) – Bud Myers, Executive Director

Mr. Myers gave an update on the IHA (Exhibit A, on file in the Council office). Some key points are as follows:

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has held back 24% of IHA funding this year, including the 15% cut in funding from 2005. Since his appointment at IHA \$9.27 million has been deducted from IHA’s fund.
- Administrative funding for Section 8 has also been affected by the deduction in funding, which means they cannot hire to the necessary level.

- IHA is anticipating being rated as a standard performing agency. They should no longer be in the troubled agency status this year.
- IHA's rankings should be available in April 2007.
- The hail storm in April 2005 did over \$2.2 million worth of damage to agency property, as a result insurance costs have increased.
- Drug Testing for admittance and reexamination for a lease has been established for the Red Maple Grove Development. The goal is to have all public housing under the drug testing program.
- A new program is being administered called Conversion of Units. This is an assessment of every unit. If a Section 8 voucher can be issued cheaper than maintaining the unit, the unit is to be closed and a voucher issued.

Councillor Gibson asked for further review on the Section 8 portion. Mr. Myers said the Section 8 waiting list opened June 2004, with 5,000 on the list. He said they still have around 2,000 on the waiting list and the list will not open again until those on the current list are served. Mr. Myers said there is an extreme need for low-income housing.

Councillor Gibson asked for a follow up on the funding for the police agency. Mr. Myers said they were able to recover a lot of money through the investigation of fraud and other illegal activities. He said they were able to work with HUD to insure 100% of all recovered funds remain with IHA. This money helps fund the Special Investigation Office. Stephen Golden, Director of the Office of Special Investigation, explained pages 11 and 12 in Exhibit A and said 244 defendants have been arrested through the office. A breakdown is given on the disposition, the charges, and how much money was collected as a result. He said they are currently focusing on mortgage fraud as this is their problem area.

Councillor Mansfield asked for more details on IHA's job training and self-sufficiency programs. Pamela Lawrence, Director of Resident Relations, said the programs have been longer standing for the last 10 years. She said there is a formal in-take and assessment of the residents to help them create a goal plan that will result in them receiving full-time employment. Ms. Lawrence said the goal is to have current residents off of public housing. In the last year they trained over 261 residents. She said they are able to do this with partnerships with other agencies.

Councillor Nytes asked what the current living conditions are of those on the waiting list. Mr. Myers said some on the list are homeless, in shelters, or doubling of families living together. Councillor Nytes asked if there is a need for public housing in a particular part

of the county. Mr. Myers said the federal government is not encouraging any ownership of additional units and the need for affordable housing is throughout the whole county.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if the \$757,846 of recovered money self-funds the officers of the Investigation office. Mr. Golden said the office exist solo on money that is recovered. Mr. Myers said the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) has assisted the agency by providing officers at IHA's sites.

Councillor Boyd asked if there is a lobbying concept for public housing. Mr. Myers said there are several industry representation groups and individual efforts made from IHA.

PROPOSAL NO. 638, 2006 - establishes a Division of Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in the Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD)

Mike Dearing, Manager of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), said they have been working with the RTA for three years and have filled 15 of the 16 board member positions. He said there have been regular meetings, a budget has been agreed upon, and solicitation and interviews for the Executive Director position has taken place. Mr. Dearing said this proposal will establish a division for the RTA within DMD, which will provide some space for staff. He said this offer from the city to house RTA staff will go towards the city's matching dollars to assist and enhance RTA. He said the RTA was created to oversee a potential rapid transit system that should be decided on this year. He said some things will take place in the future with RTA and the hiring of staff will allow movement on some type of transit activity.

Councillor Nytes asked for an explanation regarding the relationship of this new division with IndyGo. Mr. Dearing said they will both work in cooperation to ensure adequate steps are taken to ensure transit carries forth. Councillor Nytes asked if other counties are okay with the RTA being with DMD. Mr. Dearing said each one of the counties is represented on the board and all thought it was a great idea.

Councillor Keller asked if the RTA will be doing any lobbying in the State House for rapid transit funding. Mr. Dearing said he is not sure if the RTA will be able to obtain some of the transportation funds; however, it is increasing its credibility.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if there is any cost to the city. Galen Himmelheber, Chief Financial Officer for DMD, replied in the affirmative and said a budget will be presented to the Economic Development Committee for this division. He said a majority of the funding will come from federal funding and the remaining amount will come from participating counties in order to match federal funds. He said the budget in total is

\$346,000, which is administrative costs. Mr. Dearing said the cost to the counties is based on population. Councillor Pfisterer asked what the exact cost is to the city. Mr. Himmelheber said the city will pay \$110,000 towards the total budget. He said \$16,000 (which was budgeted for office space) of the \$110,000 is already in DMD budget. Councillor Pfisterer asked if a source been identified for the remaining amount. Mr. Deaing said the money being used can only be used for transportation. Kim Diller, Office of Finance and Management, said the remaining funding will come from the fund balance of the transportation sub-fund of the General Fund. She said there is sufficient dollars in this sub-fund.

Councillor Speedy stated that he has reservations on this proposal; however, he will support this proposal because he is in favor of mass transit concepts.

Chair Mahern asked for clarification on the one vacancy on the board. Mr. Dearing said someone left the board and they are waiting for someone else to be appointed.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Nytes, to send Proposal No. 638, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

Chair Mahern asked for consent to hear Proposal Nos. 2 and 3, 2007 next. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 2, 2007 - appropriates \$2,753,500 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Metropolitan Development (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants and Transportation General Funds) to fund the Household Survey, Land Use Study, Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Travel Demand Model, financed by federal grants and revenues contributed by partner municipalities that participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Dearing said this appropriation will fund several studies within the MPO work program to find some answers to transit. He said these studies are 80% federally funded. Mr. Dearing said they are adding the funds at this time because, they were not ready to identify studies last year. He said members of the organization will contribute to the local match.

Councillor Nytes asked if this is the typical amount of study for a transit system. Mr. Dearing said the studies are needed to sell the need for the system. He said they will be presenting the transit system to the Policy committee of RTA for a decision.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield to send Proposal No. 2, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 3, 2007 - appropriates \$1,119,260 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Metropolitan Development (Non-Lapsing Federal Grants and Transportation General Funds) to allow for additional local transportation planning studies for the region and additional transportation studies for Marion County, financed by federal grants and revenues contributed by partner municipalities that participate in the Metropolitan Planning Organization

Chair Mahern stated that there is an amendment to Proposal No. 3, 2007 (Exhibit B, attached).

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Mansfield to “Amend” Proposal No. 3, 2007 per Exhibit B. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Dearing said this appropriation is being added to the MPO work program. He said they were eligible to receive more Metropolitan Planning funds than what was originally thought when the budget was put together. He said the use of these funds will allow them to carry forth with additional planning activities. Mr. Dearing said this proposal will also allow MPO to expand its staff to add an administrative assistant and two transportation planners.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if the term of the grant will cover the salaries of the two transportation planners until the job is complete. Mr. Dearing said the money is going to the MPO and it receives the grant every year. Councillor Pfisterer asked if the City will be responsible for the funding if federal funding is not available. Mr. Dearing said this is not a lapsing federal grant and the money will continue every year. He said with the transition, MPO will be doing more in-house studies and less consultant studies. Councillor Pfisterer asked for clarification on if the grant is lapsing or non-lapsing. Ms. Diller said this is an annual grant from the federal government and therefore is not a non-lapsing grant. The money will be appropriated every year. She said the funding is to fund MPO’s Character 01 and to add three positions.

Councillor Nytes said there could come a point when there are changes to the amount of revenue received from the federal government that may create a problem for the program. She said it helps to be reminded about the source of funds.

David Pilbrow, Indiana Friends Committee On Legislation, said the critical issue is the depletion of fuel and how it will affect everything.

Councillor Nytes moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to send Proposal No. 3, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass as Amended” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 1, 2007 - appropriates \$592,000 in the 2006 Budget of the Department of Metropolitan Development (Redevelopment General Fund) to fund infrastructure improvements along West 16th Street between Alonzo Watford Drive and Stadium Drive, financed by revenues collected in the area known as the Biocrossroads Certified Technology Park

Margaret Banning, Administrator of Community Economic Development, said this proposal will reappropriate \$592,000 from the Certified Technology Park fund to assist in the \$2 million federal grant for streetscape enhancement to the 16th Street corridor. She said in 2005 they received the federal funds and conducted several public hearings and gathered input. Ms. Banning explained that because the money received is federal transportation funds, the design and engineering had to be done in connection with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and it prolonged things. She said the Department of Public Works (DPW) was unable to complete the bid process by the end of the year; therefore, the grant lapsed. The bids are anticipated to be out in April or May 2007 with construction being done over the summer.

Councillor Speedy asked for a description on the improvements. Ms. Banning said there will be re-surfacing on the entire stretch, new curb and sidewalks, adding sidewalks where there currently are none, upgrading traffic signals, and landscaping.

Councillor Nytes stated that she does own property along this stretch and will receive no personal gain from this project.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Boyd, to send Proposal No. 1, 2007 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0.

Presentation from David Pilbrow, Indiana Friends Committee On Legislation

Mr. Pilbrow said the United States reached the peak of oil productions in 1970. He said some response to the fuel crisis has been in the form of research. Mr. Pilbrow stated that the City of Portland did a report identifying 14 categories (i.e. transportation, land use, housing, food, etc.) that will be impacted by the rise of oil prices (Exhibit C, on file in the Council office). He said the Portland study also states that by the time the peak is reached there would need to be a 10 year advance preparation in order to control the decline in oil. If the government waits until the peak occurs, there will be 20 years of crisis and other problems along the way. He said the need to move rapidly towards mass transportation is critical. Mr. Pilbrow said that he would like to see merchants provide

bicycle racks for their customers to assist in the crisis.

Councillor Boyd asked if the specific request from Mr. Pilbrow is to have the Council sponsor a resolution to encourage merchants to provide bicycle racks. Mr. Pilbrow said that is a personal request; however, he is greatly concerned with the oil crisis. He said he would like to see an advisory board established to address the fuel issues. Councillor Boyd said he would be happy to work with others in establishing a general resolution for bicycle racks to open a discussion.

Chair Mahern and Councillor Speedy thanked Mr. Pilbrow for expressing his concern to the committee. They both agreed to take this issue seriously and look over the information given.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dane Mahern, Chair
Metropolitan Development Committee

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